

David H. Gorski, MD, PhD, FACS
Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute
4100 John R. St.
Detroit, MI 48201
(313) 576-8490

February 27, 2014

RE: Governor's Bill #36: An Act Concerning the Governor's Recommendations to Improve Access to Health Care.

Dear Senator Gerrantana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee:

I am writing to you to urge your support for Governor's Bill #36: An Act Concerning the Governor's Recommendations to Improve Access to Health Care.

Although the views described in this letter belong only to me and do not necessarily represent those of my hospital or university, describing why I support this bill requires that I briefly list my qualifications. I serve as the medical director of the Alexander J. Walt Comprehensive Breast Center at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, as well as chief of the Breast Surgery Section in the Department of Surgery at the Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit. Prior to that, I served as an Associate Professor of Surgery at the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. Ever since I completed my surgical oncology fellowship in 1999, I have collaborated with nurse practitioners, both in New Jersey and Michigan. As a result, I know that NPs when practicing in their scope of practice not only provide excellent care, but increase access to care for patients who might have difficulties obtaining appointments to see physicians and surgeons. Contrary to the misgivings expressed by many physicians that expanding the scope of practice of NPs will result in substandard care and potential patient harm, there is no evidence in the scientific literature that I have been able to locate to support such fears and solid evidence to support the conclusion that NPs can provide effective and high quality care. For example, a recent systematic review¹ of the medical literature found that the use of NPs "in acute care settings can reduce length of stay and cost of care for hospitalized patients" and APRNs "provide effective and high-quality patient care, have an important role in improving the quality of patient care in the United States, and could help to address concerns about whether care provided by APRNs can safely augment the physician supply to support reform efforts aimed at expanding access to care," while a Cochrane Systematic Review² found that "appropriately trained nurses can produce as high quality care as primary care doctors and achieve as good health outcomes for patients."

It is for these reasons that I urge you to consider and support Governor's Bill #36.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David H. Gorski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

David H. Gorski, MD, PhD, FACS, MD, PhD

REFERENCES:

1. Newhouse RP, J Stanik-Hutt, KM White, M Johantgen, EB Bass, G Zangaro, RF Wilson, L Fountain, DM Steinwachs, L Heindel, and JP Weiner (2011). Advanced practice nurse outcomes 1990-2008: a systematic review. *Nurs Econ* **29**: 230-250; quiz 251. ID:
2. Laurant M, D Reeves, R Hermens, J Braspenning, R Grol, and B Sibbald (2005). Substitution of doctors by nurses in primary care. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 10.1002/14651858.CD001271.pub2: CD001271. ID: